

13 Nov 62 ³²
Rostow additions
to VP API talk
J.

We in Washington know very well two things: First, this country was absolutely together in the confrontation with the Soviet Union, which led to their withdrawal of the missiles. Second, we know that the country is concerned about the future of Cuba.

We fully share that concern.

It is important to remember that there was a fundamental crisis in the relations between the Cuban government and the governments of this Hemisphere before we discovered that Russian missiles were being erected on Cuban soil. That earlier phase of the crisis arose from the fact that there was a Communist government in this Hemisphere dependent on an extra-continental power -- a government actively seeking to subvert and overthrow the governments of our Latin American neighbors.

We have not forgotten Castro's speech of December 2, 1961, when he said that guerrilla war was the match you throw into the haystack, and explained that Latin America looked like a pretty good haystack to him. There has just been a meeting of the Organization of American States in which the government of Venezuela presented evidence that orders came out from Havana during the crisis, which led to serious ^{auto} ~~actions~~ of sabotage.

I want to make it perfectly clear that none of us in Washington believes that the problem of Cuba will be ended when offensive weapons are removed and their removal verified.

The crisis through which we have passed was a very serious crisis; but it was essentially a crisis between ourselves and the Soviet Union. It was one of the most important crises since the war, because it proved that free men cannot be blackmailed or paralyzed into giving up their vital interests despite the threat of nuclear war. The problem of Cuba remains and, with the help of our Latin American friends and the oppressed people of Cuba themselves, we intend to see it through.

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*In his press conference of September 13 the President explained why he did not propose to invade Cuba at that time and the conditions under which we would be prepared to use force. Those reservations still hold. Our no-invasion pledge during the crisis represented no change of policy. We have made no concessions about Cuba and do not intend to make any.

*This passage you would probably wish to clear with the President.

Note. You will probably find it necessary, in answering questions, to explain that ^{the} the Communist plan in Cuba was to erect these missiles very fast and to present us with a fait accompli. We have verified this by photography after October 15, which showed a real crash performance by the Soviet technicians. It was this crash program, based on prior concealment of all the components, which explains why we did not have evidence of the missiles long before they were erected. ^{the} /